(d) if so, what preventive steps Government are planning to check?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

New Pension Policy and replacement of PPF

5268. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new Pension Policy as well as replacement of Public Provident Fund Scheme is being framed by Government.

(b) if so, what are the salient features of both the new schemes; and

(c) by when these would come into operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment had commissioned, in August, 1998, a Project OASIS (an acronym of Old Age Social & Income Security) to examine policy questions connected with old age income security in India and submit its recommendations to the Government. The Committee, headed by Dr. S.A. Dave, former Chairman of Unit Trust of India, submitted its final report to Government on 11.1.2000. The Report contains recommendations on the schemes and action that Government may take to ensure that every young worker builds up enough savings during his/her working life which could serve as a shield against poverty during their old age. The issue of implementation of the recommendations, contained in the Report of the Committee, would arise only after Government takes a final decision in this regard.

Distribution of land to landless SCs/STs

5269. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government initiated action to distribute vacant Government lands to the landless families of SCs/STs during 1991-92, as recommended by Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee; and

(b) if so, the total land distributed to the SCs/STs in pursuance of the said recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Loan for welfare of weaker sections in Assam

5270. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched and implemented various schemes/programmes to provide loan facilities under NSFDC for the welfare of SCs, STs, other weaker and backward sections of the society in the State of Assam during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise, category-wise and year-wise;

(c) the details of fund allocated and released for the above purpose during this period; and

(d) the total number of persons benefited till date, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The government are implementing various programmes through NSFDC for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the State of Assam.

(b) to (d) Details are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 123]

Drug-addiction among the Youth

5271. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that drug-addiction, particularly amongst the youth, is spreading day by day in the country;

(b) whether Government have, so far, conducted any study, particularly amongst university students, in this regard;

(c) if so, what are the findings, State-wise;

(d) whether the United Nations has also extended its cooperation financially/technically to combat/check drug-addiction in the country; and